

June 6, 2022
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor John Kress from the First Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Bryan Stirton, Commissioner Richard Lovelady, Carmela Boller, Rex West, and Tina Nigh. City Administrator John Calhoon and City Attorney Kevin Hill were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2022, special meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3714 (Payroll) for \$36,705.78. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3715 (Payroll) for \$43,079.02. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3716 (Disbursements) for \$258,833.62. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Sarah Gerving and Jackie Petersen were present on behalf of the South Brown County Community Foundation. Gerving shared with the Commission that residents of South Brown County formally launched a new community foundation named the South Brown County Community Foundation on April 7, 2022, which currently has eight founding members. After learning how the Greater Sabetha Foundation increased charitable donations for their area, founding members believed that Horton and its neighboring communities of Everest, Powhattan, Willis, and the Kickapoo Tribe could benefit from an independent community leader to help address local needs. Any individual, corporation, or organization can create a fund for \$1,000 that benefits our communities. Donations can be made to these funds at the foundation's website www.southbrowncf.org. Another primary function of the foundation is to hold an annual matchday event for community fundholders. The foundation will seek matching sponsors to increase the value of donations. With thirteen fundholders and still adding, the South Brown County Community Foundation board determined to host its first annual matchday event with the theme of Refresh-Renew-Revive South Brown County during the Brown County Fair Days of July 12-15 at the Horton Blue Building. Leading up to the matchday event, the Horton Headlight will feature the foundation articles each week so that community members can learn more about the benefits and how to donate. If you wish to create a fund or become a matchday sponsor, please call Sarah Gerving at 816-387-3639 or Jackie Petersen at 785-741-5925. You can also e-mail

info@southbrowncountycf.org or message the South Brown County Community Foundation on Facebook.

Discussion on Solar Power Customer Fees

Scott Shreve, the city's electric consultant was present to give a brief overview of the Parallel Generation Policy Ordinance that the governing body adopted in 12/2019. The Ordinance basically is a Parallel Generation Ordinance that essentially charges a nameplate for the kW of the installed solar facility. We currently charge \$3.00 per month per kW. The billing credit for surplus energy generated by the Generation Facility and delivered to the Electric Distribution System that exceeds the Customer's instantaneous load but is not in excess of the appropriate generator size, the City shall credit one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the City's actual cost of purchased energy (\$/kWh) for the periods in which energy was delivered to the City.

Shreve recommended that the city take out the nameplate capacity charge but keep everything else in the Ordinance the same. Shreve said that he just wants to make sure that the city is covering its costs. He said don't make a decision tonight, he will get the Commission some more information and make a recommendation to decide one way or the other.

Jae Landreth, a representative from Solar Planet Inc. was also present to give his input.

Ballfield Updates

Calhoon said that site grading at the new ballfields is anticipated to begin in two weeks.

Two checks were received by the city for the new ballfields, one was from Greater Manhattan Community Foundation for \$107,000, and the other was from HIDC for \$83,000.

Early discussions have begun on the maintenance of the ball fields once the project is completed. Initial conversations suggested hiring a Recreation Director and sharing the cost between the city, school district, and HIDC, but nothing has been decided yet.

Food Truck – July 1st Activities

Kayla Bare contacted Calhoon about having The Burger Bus at Mission Lake over the 4th of July weekend. Calhoon granted permission and asked that they get with the lake caretaker on where The Burger Bus should be parked.

With the encouragement of Calhoon, city employees donated a couple hundred dollars to the Mission Lake fireworks fund at the employee luncheon last Friday, and Calhoon matched \$100 of the contributions. Constance Fox will match any donation until the remaining \$1800 is raised of the \$6000 goal for this year's display.

Discussion on Salaried Positions

The Commissioners, Clerk Knudson, Chief Boller, John Calhoon, and Randy Mayfield engaged in open dialogue regarding flex time with exempt employees. The city currently does not have a policy in place involving this. Per the Commissioners request Calhoon will draft a policy stating among other things, if an exempt employee is out of the office for more than 4 hours, he/she shall use accrued sick, or vacation leave, and report time used to the payroll clerk.

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1200

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Ordinance No. 1200 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1 OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE 1008, REPEALING ORDINANCE 1079, AND PROVIDING SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR THE TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioners West, Nigh, and Lovelady. Nay—Commissioner Boller. Motion carried. Kevin Hill said that the appropriate time has elapsed with Charter Ordinance No. 23, and the Commission could consider approval of Ordinance No. 1200.

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 23 shall take effect 61 days after the final publication unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed, requiring a referendum to be held on the ordinance as provided by Article 12, Section 5, Subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in which case this charter ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the majority of the electors voting thereon.

Set Budget Workshop Times and Dates

The Commission will hold the first of several budget workshops in preparation of the 2023 budget at the next Commission meeting on June 20th.

Consider Approval of Payment Request No. 22 for WWTF Phase III

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve payment request No. 22 from AHRs Construction for Phase III Sewer Project in the amount of \$50,039.12. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. The payment will be sent to USDA for final approval.

Motion by Commissioner Boller for the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Phase III Wastewater Treatment Facility construction with mention that the removal pump at the headworks is addressed. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. Certificate of Substantial Completion excludes final grading and seeding, access road construction, and demolition of existing facility. A punch list of items to be completed or corrected is attached to the Certificate. The date of substantial completion was May 24th.

Announcement of New Utility Billing Clerk

Calhoon, Clerk Knudson, and Carol Stirton conducted five interviews for the Utility Billing Clerk position and hired Kelsey Trulove. Trulove replaced current Utility Billing Clerk Brianna Dowell. Trulove will have an evaluation at 30, 60, and 90 days. The results of the evaluation could potentially result in either a pay increase or termination. The evaluation process was discussed with each of the applicants during their interview.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, and street departments. Mayfield handed out a detailed report showing past and present projects broken down by department. Mayfield recommended that the city address excess water issues, or we will have problems with the new wastewater treatment facility. Mayfield said that sump pumps are not supposed to be connected to the sanitary sewer.

Police Department Updates

Chief Boller provided the Commission with May 2022 Dispatch Calls by Service Type and current Code Enforcement violations that are in the works. Boller said a slew of Code Enforcement violations will start going through court next Monday the 13th.

Cody Spire and Chief Boller attended The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Conference and got all their training hours in.

William Entrikin graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on May 20th and is back full time with the Horton Police Department.

City Administrator

Barb Welch is getting new siding placed on her home and asked if the alley to the west of the house can be closed for about a week so they can place a dumpster there. Welch said that Gaskell doesn't have an issue with it.

Calhoon said that two Quit Claim Deeds have been issued, one to Timothy Smith for 401 East 7th, and one to Keith Climer for the property at 316 West 9th.

Calhoon has received several compliments for the cemetery over Memorial Day weekend. He said the city teams pulled together and mowed it along with everything else they have going on.

Calhoon proposed raising the rent for NEK-CAP at the Armory since it hasn't been increased in several years. NEK-CAP currently pays the city \$750 a month, and the city conducts all the repairs for the building, mows the lawn, and provides supplies. The Commission asked Calhoon to provide accurate figures for utilities, Kansas Gas Service, extermination, and liability insurance for the building before they make a decision on the increase.

Campers at the Becker Ridge section of Mission Lake would like to repair the washed-out bank with bunker blocks near their camp site. They are willing to pay for the work.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton gave kudos to those who made the Car Show and Pancake Feed a success this last weekend.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

West asked if the property that Sunny Boado purchasing at 320 East 7th was a community garden. Calhoon said that it is not a community garden, and she is paying for her water usage. Boado would like to install 34 raised beds and grow edible plants and flowers and introduce fresh foods to people.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller requested that Josh Haverkamp be present to discuss the generator behind City Hall. Haverkamp stated that the fan to cool down the generator and/or cool intake needs to be replaced since it caused a total failure to 911 last week. West requested a list of necessary repairs and costs, and the Commission would go from there.

Haverkamp also expressed the urgency to move the substation inside the power plant because one day it is going to go. The city has budgeted funds for this to be done.

The radiator systems in engines #1 and #2 need to be addressed as well. The Commission said to present estimates so they can get the ball rolling.

Commissioner Nigh

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor